May 31, 1989

Dear Mom,

Just wanted to send you some copies of some newspaper and magazine articles on some of my recent activities. I think you can see why I've been so busy.

I've enclosed articles from the following publications:

Update, May 17, 1989--Front page has an article about Morris Kight speaking at the Founder's Banquet. At the bottom of that same page is a short item and picture about the art auction that I produced for the benefit of the Archives.

Update, May 24, 1989--An article about the banquet (after it happened) and a report on the auction results.

The San Diego Union, May 21, 1989--article on me and the Archives which was done in connection with the Art Auction.

Bravo!, May 25, 1989--Cover story on me and the Archives. Note on page 13 a copy of the resolution signed by the Mayor and the entire City Council.

San Diego Magazine, June 1989--article about Matt Katka and the San Diego Library (page 134); an article (page 140) about the gay/lesbian community in the post Stonewall period. I am one of the people interviewed for this article and I did extensive work for the author by researching much of the historical data from the files of the Archives.

That's (for me) a lot of media attention in a short period of time. The articles were all very supportive and gave us more public exposure for the Archives than we've ever had. I'll also be participating in the taping of a video program later this week that will be aired on a local cable network during gay pride week (mid June).

The Center's Founders Banquet was a great success. It was a sell-out--over 120 tickets at $35 each. One woman came from Menlo Park (near San Francisco), there was a surprise visit from the District Attorney of San Francisco (he's running for California State Attorney General), one from Santa Barbara, and several from Los Angeles. When the Mayor's Chief of Staff, Ben Dillingham, (he was Freddy's life partner) presented me with the proclamation from the City Council, he said, "It's very unusual for me to represent the entire City Council, but on this occasion I do, and I must say that it's one of the few occasions where we've been able to get them to all agree on something".

There was a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Chairperson of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. I was further honored by the announcement of the creation a "Jess Jessop Founders Award" which the Center will present on an annual basis for community service. The first one was presented to me by my long-time friend Jeri Dilno. It was a thrilling evening, and I was greatly honored to have Pat Katka at my side and to be able to speak publicly about her life-long support of me and my projects.

Morris made a fine, loving, and lauditory speech. As always, he had them on their feet and cheering. And it was my first chance to publicly acknowledge Morris for his very positive influence on me and San Diego. Surprisingly, many San Diegans (especially the young ones) do not know who he is or how he has changed their lives. It was also very pleasing to me that so many people told me indivdually that it was the nicest gay/lesbian event that they had been

to for a long time. Many remarked that there was a very noticable friendly and loving atmosphere throughout the entire event. So how could I ask for more? What a night!

But the next day it was back in the blue jeans and hard at work with final preparations for the auction. Though we only made $5000 (instead of the $10,000 that I was hoping for) it was a great success from a public relations aspect--not only because of the extensive press coverage (before and after the event) but because everyone who came was very impressed with the elegant way in which the entire event was carried out. The auction committee really came together and did their stuff. All the volunteers were consciencious and did their jobs well and smoothly. And the two women who displayed all the art for viewing (prior to the bidding time) made the place look like an art museum.

Everybody who was there said that it was one of the finest auctions they had ever been to. And that's just what I wanted--a touch of class. When I realized a week before that art donations were not up to the level that I had hoped for, I said, "Well, I know we're not going to lose money and I think we can make some friends and create a positive image that will help us with future fund raising." I am very concerned about the image of the Archives and I have a public relations man who shares my view. He helped create many little fine touches that were responsible for the many compliments that we got.

But beside all that, I was most impressed with the supportive attitude that I felt from the Archives Committee regarding my personal well-being. I think that my last hospitalization made some of them more aware of how physically challanged that I've been lately. They looked after me like mother hens--making me take rest periods, bringing me food, answering the phone, and anticipating my needs in a variety of ways. So once again I am blessed with great friends.

Now the race is on to prepare our biggest display ever for the Lesbian/Gay Pride Fesitval. We have less than 2 weeks to throw this miracle together and, of course, we're way behind schedule. And, of course, everything must be up to "Jess standard". I always get a bit stressed, but I love the results of pulling it all together with that "can-do" attitude.

Well, I've produced a bunch of stuff for you to read. I hope it doesn't seem too egotistical. It's my way of letting you know what I'm up to and at the same time sharing the pride that I feel in my community. I am anxious for your response. Please share articles with Gail and Allen.

Much love to you,

Bob